Damage to Metro Railway, Calcutta on Account of Fire

410. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate loss in property on account of damage in Metro Railway in Calcutta on account of fire in October, 1995;

(b) whether the cause of the fire has been established;

(c) if not, by when the enquiry in this regard would be completed; and

(d) the safety measures proposed to be introduced in each bogey to prevent choking of passengers after blaze on running train in Metro in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) The approximate cost of damage to railway property in the incidents of fire in Metro Rail in October '95 has been assessed at Rs. 1.35 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The cause of fire on 9.10.1995 is being inquired into by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Metro Circle, whose report is awaited.

(d) (i) The stations are provided with air intake fans at both ends as also under platform exhaust and mid-point exhaust in the tunnel on either side of the stations to avoid suffocation.

(ii) Adequate fire fighting arrangements are made to put out fire.

Inauguration of full stretch running from Dum Dum to Tollygunge in Calcutta

411. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament invited at the recent inauguration of full stretch running from Dum Dum to Tollygunge of the Calcutta Metropolitan Railways;

(b) the criteria for inviting such MPs and former MPs; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred in connection with the inauguration ceremoney?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI):

(a) 1. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, M.P.
2. Dr. Debi Prosad Pal, M.P.
3. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, M.P.
4. Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P.
5. Prof. Malini Bhattacharya, M.P.
6. Ku. Mamata Banerjee, M.P.
7. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, M.P.
8. Shri Priyaranjan Das Munshi, (former M.P.)

(b) Normally sitting and former Members of Parliament elected from constituencies in and adjoining areas or residing in the areas served by a railway line/project and persons associated with such projects are invited on such occasions.

(c) Rs. 10,000/- (approx.)

Speedy Disposal of Pension Claims

412. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government for speedy disposal of pension claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to penalize those officers who are responsible for inordinate delays; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. The concerned Ministries and Departments from where a

Government servant retires are responsible for ensuring such payments without delay. Some of the important steps taken by the Government to ensure timely disposal of pension cases of retiring persons are as under:—

(i) A specific time schedule has been laid down in the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 and the corresponding rules applicable to All India Services Officers, Armed Forces personnel and Railway employees for advance action to be taken by the Head of Office and Audit/Accounts Officers to ensure timely assessment of retirement benefits and issue of Pension Payment Order not later than one month in advance of the date of retirement.

(ii) Making Heads of Departments/ Offices accountable for compliance with the Government orders for authorising pension, provisional or final, by the date of retirement.

(iii) Identification of officers of the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministries to monitor disposal of pensionary grievances.

(iv) The retiring employees who do not receive pensionary benefits on the date of retirement may bring such cases to the notice of the Government.

2. Instructions for timely payment of pensionary benefits were reiterated by the Government in May 1994 emphasising the need for timely verification of qualifying service, appropriate training of employees handling pension cases, publicity regarding provision of CCS (Pension) Rules and periodical coordination meetings between administrative Heads and Accounts Offices. The Heads of Departments/Offices are required to ensure timely payment. The respective Departments can take action against the delinquent officials if they are found responsible for delay in payments.

Conversion of Miraj-Latur Narrow Gauge Rail Line into Broad Gauge

413. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of conversion of the Miraj-Latur narrow gauge into broad gauge;

(b) the amount sanctioned in the budget for 1995-96 for the project;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has cleared the whole project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) The present estimated cost of the work is Rs. 225 crores.

(b) Rs. 10 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Land acquisition work for new line from Latur to Latur Road, as part of gauge conversion of Miraj-Latur section, is in progress. Construction of station building for New Latur Station has also been taken up. Work in earthwork and bridges is also being taken up where land is available.

(e) Does not arise.

Revival plan for Reyrolle Burn Ltd.

414. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operating Agency had submitted a revival plan for Reyrolle Burn Ltd. a subsidiary of BBUNL, in BIFR hearing in March, 1995;

(b) whether BIFR Bench had in the hearing in July, 1995 advised Government to take a quick decision on the revival when Government had asked for two months' time;